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GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

Letter dated 15 September 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the memorandum issued by the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 12 September 1997 with regard to the recent acceleration of the arms build-up by the United States of America and south Korean authorities.

I would be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under item 71 of the provisional agenda.

(Signed) KIM Hoyng U
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative

* A/52/150 and Corr.1.

ANNEX

Memorandum issued by the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 12 September 1997

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND SOUTH KOREAN AUTHORITIES MUST PUT AN IMMEDIATE STOP TO THE ACCELERATED ARMS BUILD-UP TAKING PLACE BEHIND THE SCREEN OF THE TALKS

Military equipment is being introduced into south Korea as a result of the war policy being pursued against the idea of peace, and this creates a very dangerous situation on the Korean peninsula that can be seen on the eve of a war.

The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, considering that the large-scale arms build-up by the south Korean authorities with the backing of the United States of America, is a very dangerous act, posing threats to peace on the Korean peninsula and in Asia, publishes this memorandum to draw the attention of the world to this.

1. While clamouring about a "new cold war around the Korean peninsula", the south Korean authorities have sharply increased the military budget every year, allegedly to cope with it.

The military spending of south Korea went up to US$ 17,940 million this year from $11,380 million in 1992. This is an increase of 58 per cent in a matter of five years.

This goes against the worldwide trend towards arms reduction. The rate of increase of south Korea's military budget reached 49.2 per cent in the period from 1992 to 1996. That figure is more than twice the rate of increase of military expenditure in countries in strife-torn areas in the corresponding period.

According to the "Report on World Military Expenditure and Arms Sales for 1993 and 1994", published by the United States Arms Control and Disarmament Agency in the beginning of 1995, the military spending of south Korea was tenth in the world in 1993. (The south Korean paper Siminui Shinmun, 21-27 August 1995)

This proves that since Kim Yong Sam's seizure of power, south Korea has become one of the areas with the greatest military expenditures in the world.

In the United States paper Defense News it was stated that south Korea took the threat from north Korea as a pretext for its arms build-up, adding that "the arms build-up of the Republic of Korea goes beyond the defense capacity".

The sharply increasing military spending of south Korea is not for defence, but a product of the war policy pursued against the northern half of Korea.

The amount of money allotted for the purchase of military equipment holds a big share in the military budget of south Korea. The amount of money south Korea squandered on the purchase of military equipment rose to $4,974 million in 1997 from $3,521 million in 1992, a 41 per cent increase.

More money was squandered on the purchase of military equipment under the Kim Yong Sam regime.

The Kim Yong Sam regime allocated a total of $21,384 million for the introduction of military equipment from 1993 to 1997. That figure equals the amount of money appropriated by his predecessors for the same purpose for 10 years.

This suffices to prove that the present authorities of south Korea have pursued a more vicious policy of confrontation and war against the northern half of Korea than preceding military fascist regimes.

With a view to introducing more military equipment, the south Korean authorities announced a "mid-term defense programme" for the period 1998-2002 in December of last year, and they are now trying to appropriate $35,288 million for military spending, up 65 per cent as compared with the amount of money spent in the period from 1993 to 1997.

The south Korean authorities continue to increase military spending, though they are compiling an austere budget because of chronic economic crisis and financial difficulties. That fact goes to prove that their talking about peace is a sophistry to cover their war preparations against the northern half of Korea.

2. The south Korean authorities are now crying for "offensive strategy", and are hell-bent on the large-scale introduction of combat equipment to invade the northern half of Korea.

In particular, they are racing to introduce the latest equipment for the navy and air force for pre-emptive surprise attacks on the depth and strategic vantages in the northern half of Korea.

In the past, the south Korean authorities laid emphasis on the introduction of equipment for coastal defence by small boats and sea areas by destroyers. In the 1990s, they have provided the navy with sea patrol planes and submarines so as to increase "three-dimensional naval operation capacity", including support for aquatic, underwater, aerial and ground operations.

From 1991 to the end of last year, therefore, they deployed for a real war six 1,200 ton class submarines and introduced eight P-3C sea patrol planes and 78 Harpoon surface-to-surface missiles.

They plan to introduce Barak missiles for the navy, a weapon that can be based on large and small warships, two Aegis destroyers and other submarines and amphibious ships of the latest type.

The reinforcement of the air force is aimed at building a "strategic air force" for air supremacy, depth strike and support for ground and naval forces.

From 1994 to this year, the south Korean authorities introduced 48 F-16 fighter planes, 200 AM-RAAM air-to-air missiles and 136 AGM-88b air-to-ground missiles in south Korea, and decided to introduce 72 F-16 fighter planes and some 100 Harpy unmanned attack planes and to import four mid-air refuelling planes by 1999.

They also made public a plan to introduce in the near future more than 60 F-15 fighter planes and 10 Hawk-800 XP reconnaissance planes equipped with the latest electronic facilities.

The south Korean authorities spurred the introduction of the latest types of tanks, armoured vehicles and other military equipment in order to increase the attack capacity of the ground force.

In the last two years, they have introduced 275 M 48A-5 tanks, 30 T-80U tanks, 70 BMP-3 armoured combat vehicles, 100 IGLA anti-aircraft missiles and 150 Metis-M anti-tank missile units, and they announced that in the near future they would ship into south Korea multiple launch rocket systems (29 launchers and 279 rocket shells) and 110 sophisticated ATACMS ground-to-ground missiles.

South Korea has become a big arms market in the world and the first in the world in density of military equipment deployment.

In the April 1996 issue of the United States magazine Arms Trade News it was stated that in 1995 south Korea was fifth in the world in purchasing United States weapons. The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute said that in 1996 south Korea was third in purchasing combat equipment.

All the weapons shipped into south Korea are in full readiness for a real war against the northern half of Korea. The whole of south Korea has turned into a huge tinderbox ready to explode at any time.

3. The United States is still pursuing a policy to stifle the Democratic People's Republic of Korea by force of arms, while talking about "peacekeeping" and "four-way talks".

The United States has worked out an adventurous plan for aggression and is reinforcing its troops in south Korea and encouraging the south Korean authorities to round off war preparations.

Above all, the United States completed a war plan against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea by adjusting and supplementing the original plan.

It put forward a "south Korea-United States new operation plan 5027" in 1993 adjusting and supplementing the plan worked out in the 1980s. In 1995, under the operation plan, the United States provided the "rapid deployment forces" to be sent to the Korean peninsula from the United States mainland with two aircraft carriers, some 1,000 warplanes, expedition forces of marines in the Pacific region, Patriot missiles and AWACS planes, instead of an aircraft

carrier, one flying corps and two brigades of marines, and set up a new double-track transport system for direct transportation of forces and war matériel.

The United States amended the "United States-Japan defense cooperation guidelines" so as to inveigle Japan into a Korean war.

It also is taking steps to identify the military map coordinate system of the "Republic of Korea" army (Bessel system) with WGS-84 of the United States and the European Union, stage more joint military manoeuvres with south Korea and further strengthen the "south Korea-United States joint operation system".

Under the operation plan against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea the United States is actively encouraging south Korea to introduce a huge amount of military equipment of the latest type.

On 8 April, United States Secretary of Defense William Cohen told the south Korean Defence Minister that mutual identification of weapon systems is important for the strengthening of south Korea-United States joint military strength and for the display of combat power and asked him to purchase more United States-made weapons.

The largest supplier of military equipment to south Korea is the United States.

The "Report on the World Arms Sales Situation in 1995" published by the United States Arms Control and Disarmament Agency stated that more than 90 per cent of the weapons shipped into south Korea were United States-made weapons, and the south Korean publications said that 80 to 90 per cent of the weapons introduced into south Korea were United States made.

Among the military equipment the United States has already delivered or is going to deliver to south Korea are ATACMS ground-to-ground missiles, Patriot and Stinger ground-to-air missiles and other missiles of various kinds, tanks, armoured vehicles, various kinds of heavy guns, F-15 fighter planes, AH-64 Apache attack helicopters, AWACS planes, the latest types of planes, mid-air refuelling planes, AM-RAAM, Sidewinder and Sparrow air-to-air missiles, Harm and Maverick air-to-ground missiles, Aegis destroyers, Harpoon surface-to-surface missiles and Sea Sparrow ship-to-air missiles.

While crying for the introduction of diversified military equipment, the south Korean authorities are now shipping modern tanks, armoured vehicles, anti-aircraft missiles, anti-tank missiles and helicopters from the Russian Federation as well as the United States, Harpy unmanned attack planes from Israel and huge military equipment from many countries around the world.

South Korea, therefore, has become the arms market of the United States, the Russian Federation and other countries.

All facts show that the United States is the main supplier of military equipment to the south Korean authorities for a war against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and some countries are taking an active part in arms sales to south Korea.

The United States is selling huge weapons to south Korea and reinforcing its troops present in south Korea with the latest types of combat equipment. From 1990 to 1995, the United States replaced the military equipment of its troops present in south Korea with the latest type of equipment used in the Gulf War, and last year it set up a helicopter attack brigade with 30 more AH-64 Apache helicopters and introduced the equipment for one brigade including M1 A1 tanks and armoured vehicles, more than 10,000 items in all, and stockpiled some 700,000 tons of bullets for war materials in reserve.

It also shipped into south Korea from Japan in February of this year the depleted uranium bullets. The nuclear weapon that was used in the Gulf War has a harmful effect on the health of the people.

While arguing that "four-way talks" are needed for peace on the Korean peninsula, the United States is continuously reinforcing combat equipment in south Korea and staging large-scale military manoeuvres with south Korea all year round, aggravating the situation on the peninsula. This is patent proof of the double-dealing tactics of the United States towards the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The United States should not use the question of peace and security on the Korean peninsula any longer to make a mockery of world public opinion.

If war is to be averted and peace preserved on the Korean peninsula, the United States must refrain from encouraging the arms build-up in south Korea and aggravating tensions, and should withdraw its troops from south Korea.

The United States and the south Korean authorities must not make a foolish attempt to test our military potential or intimidate and subdue our people with military threats and provocation. Such reckless action would be a dangerous adventure that could have the catastrophic result of posing a serious threat to peace and security on the Korean peninsula, in Asia and in the rest of the world.

The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea expresses expectation that the United Nations and the peace-loving countries around the world will take resolute measures to check the arms build-up of the United States and the south Korean authorities.